IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

providing at least one web service;

providing an agent metadata service on each of a plurality of remote agents, each agent metadata service operable to retrieve agent metadata residing on the remote agent based on one or more detection parameters;

receiving, by the at least one web service, the agent metadata from the plurality of remote agents; and

detecting, by the at least one web service, at least one remote agent on a network ~~by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices~~ based on ~~one or more detection parameters~~ the agent metadata; and

performing at least one of managing and configuring the at least one remote agent based on the at least one web service.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

5.   (Currently Amended) A system for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

at least one remote agent **having an agent metadata service operable to retrieve agent metadata residing on the remote agent based on one or more detection parameters**;

at least one web service for **receiving the agent metadata from the at least one remote agent and for** detecting **the** at least one remote agent ~~on a network by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices~~ based on ~~one or more detection parameters~~ **the agent metadata**; and

a manager for performing at least one of managing and configuring at least one remote agent based on the at least one web service.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

8.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including computer executable code for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

code for providing at least one web service;

code for providing an agent metadata service on each of a plurality of remote agents, each agent metadata service operable to retrieve agent metadata residing on the remote agent based on one or more detection parameters;

code for receiving, by the at least one web service, the agent metadata from the plurality of remote agents; and

code for detecting, by the at least one web service, at least one remote agent on a network ~~by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices~~ based on ~~one or more detection parameters~~ **the agent metadata**; and

code for performing at least one of managing and configuring the at least one remote agent based on at least one web service.

10.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

11.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving at least one **unsolicited** alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising a notification manager for receiving at least one **unsolicited** alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.

15.   (Currently Amended) T he computer readable storage medium of claim 9, further comprising code for receiving at least one **unsolicited** alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.